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## **UDOT Executive Director Announces Significant I-15 CORE Design Improvements**

*I-15 CORE to keep all lanes open through Provo S-Curves  
construction, modify Provo Center Street interchange and provide  
easier pedestrian access to UVU students*

**LEHI, Utah** (May 6, 2010 ) – UDOT Executive Director John Njord today presented three significant design improvements on the Utah County Interstate 15 Corridor Expansion Project (I-15 CORE).

The improvements include modification to the Provo S-Curves work zone, which will allow all three lanes to remain open and cancels the I-15 daytime southbound lane closure between University Parkway and Provo Center Street scheduled to begin tonight and last through September. Other improvements include a modified interchange at Provo Center Street and a new pedestrian walkway under University Parkway in Orem.

“Throughout the project, the I-15 CORE Team is working to be as flexible and open-minded as possible to allow for new ideas and innovation, even at the last minute,” said Njord. “This allows us to take advantage of new opportunities and deliver the very best project possible.”

Recognizing the critical need for work around the Provo S-Curves, Njord challenged project and contractor engineers to find a solution to minimize inconvenience to the public. To accomplish this design, lanes and shoulders will be narrowed, speed limits reduced and lane shifts will occur. Nighttime closures are underway in various locations. Drivers will see narrowed lanes and reduced speeds within project limits. The modified design will significantly reduce projected delays to 30 to 60 minutes during heavy commute times and longer during holiday weekends if drivers don’t change how, when and where they travel.

UDOT has also been working with Provo and Orem city leaders since the contractor selection to address concerns from the city with the plans for Provo Center Street and University Parkway.

UDOT and Provo City collaborated with the contractor to modify the design of the new Provo Center Street interchange that will address the mobility needs and unique topography of the area while improving the city’s long-term development goals. Engineers built upon the contractor’s high-functioning rotary design to create a modified diamond interchange that will allow direct access to Draper Lane. The modified design also has a

more traditional traffic flow that will be familiar to the traveling public, while still adding capacity.

In order to stay on schedule and eliminate any additional cost to build the modified design, Provo Center Street and interchange ramps will be closed at times throughout the project. None of the individual closures will exceed 90 days. Work on the interchange may begin this summer.

Additionally, Orem City and Utah Valley University collaborated with UDOT on a design improvement to University Parkway in Orem. As part of our work on the interchange, UDOT will add a pedestrian underpass from Sandhill Road to the Utah Valley University, improving traffic flow on University Parkway and encouraging safe pedestrian access to the university. The work in the area will begin next year with final details being determined in the coming months.

The three design improvements will not affect the budget or completion date of the I-15 CORE project. These solutions, while improving the project, do not eliminate delays that will be likely occur through completion in December 2012. UDOT encourages drivers to TravelWise by carpooling, shifting travel times, telecommuting and using local roads for shorter trips.

For more information on the I-15 CORE project and to sign up for weekly e-mail updates, visit [www.udot.utah.gov/i15core](http://www.udot.utah.gov/i15core).

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